



## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

383 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

GLORIA MOLINA  
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
DON KNABE  
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS, EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
(213) 974-1411

May 2, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

### **LOBBYIST ORDINANCE PENALTY ASSESSMENTS (ALL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTE)**

#### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. In accordance with Section 2.160.150 of the Los Angeles County Code, direct County Counsel to bring civil action against Robert Searcy/Terra Firma Services, a registered lobbying firm, in the amount of \$2,000, for its failure to file a quarterly lobbying report for the period of October 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004.
2. In accordance with Section 2.160.150 of the Los Angeles County Code, prohibit Robert Searcy/Terra Firma Services from representing an individual or entity when dealing with any County agency or the Board of Supervisors and to terminate the registration of Robert Searcy/Terra Firma Services until it is in compliance with the lobbyist ordinance.
3. Instruct the Executive Officer to notify Robert Searcy/Terra Firma Services and all County Department and District Heads of your Board's action.

#### PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On April 6, 1993 your Board adopted Ordinance No. 93-0031 (Chapter 2.160 of the Los Angeles County Code), the lobbyist ordinance. The ordinance requires that individuals and entities that seek to influence County officials register as lobbying firms or lobbyist employers. The ordinance also requires quarterly reports to be filed by all registrants. The ordinance contains certain penalties for those who fail to adhere to the provisions of the ordinance.

Robert Searcy/Terra Firma Services registered as a lobbying firm on April 21, 1997. The lobbying firm has been notified on four different dates that it must submit a quarterly report for the period of October 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004. The lobbying firm has failed to file its report, pay the \$15 filing fee and pay the \$250 late penalty.

Attached is a chronology of contacts with Robert Searcy/Terra Firma Services including copies of correspondence sent by my office. The lobbying firm has been notified by certified mail that this matter has been placed on your Board's agenda in the event a representative may wish to testify.

#### FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Total penalties in an amount of up to \$2,000 will partially offset County Counsel's expenses in preparing the suit against Robert Searcy/Terra Firma Services. There are no other direct costs associated with this action because court fees are waived for the County.

#### FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 2.160.070 of the Los Angeles County Code requires lobbying firms to submit quarterly lobbyist reports at the end of the month following each calendar quarter. Robert Searcy/Terra Firma Services registered as a lobbying firm on April 21, 1997. Robert Searcy/Terra Firma Services was notified on December 17, 2004 that the quarterly report was due on January 31, 2005 covering the period of October 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004. On February 9, 2005, the lobbying firm was notified that the quarterly report had not been filed and a fine of \$250 would be imposed if the required report was not filed by February 23, 2005. On March 11, 2005, the lobbying firm was notified that the \$250 penalty had been imposed and the report, filing fee and penalty was required to be filed by March 25, 2005. Further, on April 13, 2005, the lobbying firm was informed that if the report, filing fee and penalty was not filed by April 20, 2005 an additional fine of \$2000 would be imposed for failure to comply with reporting requirements. To date, the report has not been filed.

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
May 2, 2005  
Page 3

In accordance with Section 2.160.150 of the Los Angeles County Code, the Executive Officer has determined that Robert Searcy/Terra Firma Services has violated the lobbyist ordinance. The ordinance empowers your Board to impose sanctions on any person or entity in violation of the lobbyist ordinance, including but not limited to, directing the County Counsel to file a civil action.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Approval of the action recommended in this letter will have minor impact on the Office of the County Counsel, which will file a civil action against Robert Searcy/Terra Firma Services in the Superior Court.

Respectfully submitted,



VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachments (5)

- c. Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel



**ROBERT SEARCY/TERRA FIRMA SERVICES  
QUARTERLY REPORT OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2004  
RECORD OF CONTACT**

Memo dated December 17, 2004 informing all lobbying firms, including Robert Searcy/Terra Firma Services that they must file a quarterly report for October through December 2004.

Follow-up letter dated February 9, 2005, notifying Mr. Searcy that the lobbying firm's quarterly report had not been received and must be filed by February 23, 2005.

On March 2, 2005 Mr. Searcy was telephoned and a voice mail message was left.

Certified letter dated March 11, 2005, notifying Mr. Searcy that Terra Firma Services must pay the fine and file its report by March 25, 2005.

Another letter was sent on April 13, 2005 informing Mr. Searcy/Terra Firma Services that a fine of \$2000 would be imposed if the report was not filed by April 20, 2005.

On April 27, 2005 Mr. Searcy was telephoned. He said he would come by our office and file his report. To date the lobbying firm has not filed its report.



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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

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**ATTACHMENT - B**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS, EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
(213) 974-1411

April 13, 2005

Mr. Robert Searcy  
Terra Firma Services  
15233 Ventura Blvd., Suite 1002  
Sherman Oaks, California 91403

Dear Mr. Searcy:

**LOBBYING FIRM QUARTERLY REPORT**

According to our records, your Lobbying Firm Quarterly Report (Form LOB 7) for the period of October through December of 2004 has not been filed with this office. Our initial letter sent to you on December 17, 2004 explained your filing obligation. On February 9, 2005, we again informed you of the filing requirements and that a fine of \$250 would be imposed if your report was not filed in this office by February 23, 2005. On March 11, 2005, our office notified by US Postal Service Certified Mail that your report had not been received and a fine of \$250 had been imposed. Further, you were informed that if the lobbying firm quarterly report, \$15 filing fee, and \$250 fine was not received in our office by March 25, 2005 you would be subject to further penalties.

Please send to this office, by **Wednesday, April 20, 2005**, a check or money order in the amount of \$250 made payable to the County of Los Angeles. You must still submit your lobbying firm quarterly report with the \$15 filing fee by that same day.

If we do not receive your lobbying firm quarterly report, \$15 filing fee, and \$250 fine by **Wednesday, April 20, 2005**, an additional fine of \$2000 will be imposed. We urge you to act immediately.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, you may call me at (213) 974-1578 or you may contact George Britton of my staff at (213) 974-1093.

Very truly yours,

DONATO B. GARCIA  
CHIEF AUXILIARY SERVICES

DG:gb

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VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS, EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
 (213) 974-1411

March 11, 2005

Mr. Robert Searcy  
 Terra Firma Services  
 15233 Ventura Blvd., Suite 1002  
 Sherman Oaks, California 91403

Dear Mr. Searcy:

**LOBBYING FIRM QUARTERLY REPORT**

According to our records, your Lobbying Firm Quarterly Report (Form LOB 7) for the period of October through December of 2004 has not been filed with this office.

Our initial letter which accompanied your forms and explained your filing obligation was sent to you on December 17, 2004. On February 9, 2005 we again informed you of the filing requirements and that a fine of \$250 would be imposed if your quarterly report was not filed in this office by February 23, 2005.

Please remit to this office, by **Friday, March 25, 2005**, a check or money order in the amount of \$250, made payable to the County of Los Angeles. You must still submit your quarterly report along with the \$15 filing fee by that same date.

If your quarterly report, filing fee and payment of fine is not received in our office by **Friday, March 25, 2005**, you may be subject to further penalties, including an additional fine of up to \$2,000. You are urged to act immediately. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at (213) 974-1578 or you may contact George Britton of my staff at (213) 974-1093.

Very truly yours,

DONATO B. GARCIA  
 CHIEF AUXILIARY SERVICES

DG:gb

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7002 0860 0005 0891 8051

**U.S. Postal Service**  
**CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT**  
*(Domestic Mail Only; No Insurance Coverage Provided)*

**OFFICIAL USE**

Postage	\$	Postmark Here
Certified Fee		
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)		
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)		
<b>Total Postage &amp; Fees</b>	\$	

<b>Sent To</b>	<b>Mr. Robert Searcy</b>
<b>Street, Apt. No., or PO Box No.</b>	<b>Terra Firma Services</b>
	<b>15233 Ventura Blvd., Suite 1002</b>
<b>City, State, ZIP+ 4</b>	<b>Sherman Oaks, California 91403</b>

PS Form 3800, April 2002

See Reverse for Instructions

**SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION**

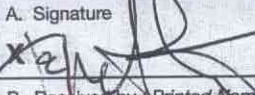
- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

**Mr. Robert Searcy**  
**Terra Firma Services**  
**15233 Ventura Blvd., Suite 1002**  
**Sherman Oaks, California 91403**

2. Article Number  
*(Transfer from service label)*

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY**

A. Signature 	<input type="checkbox"/> Agent <input type="checkbox"/> Addressee
B. Received by <i>(Printed Name)</i>	C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes  
 If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail
<input type="checkbox"/> Registered	<input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise
<input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? *(Extra Fee)* ☐ Yes

7002 0860 0005 0891 8051

PS Form 3811, February 2004

Domestic Return Receipt

102595-02-M-1540



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VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS, EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
(213) 974-1411

February 9, 2005

Mr. Robert Searcy  
Robert Searcy / Terra Firma Services  
15233 Ventura Blvd., Suite 1002  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Dear Mr. Searcy:

**QUARTERLY REPORTS**

By memo dated December 17, 2004, you were notified that, as a lobbying firm or as a lobbyist employer, you are required to file a quarterly activity report by January 31, 2005. Your quarterly report has not been received.

Chapter 2.160, Section 2.160.140 of the Los Angeles County code imposes a \$250 fine for the late filing of the quarterly reports, in addition to the \$15 reporting fee. In order to avoid the \$250 penalty please file your quarterly report with our office by **Wednesday, February 23, 2005.**

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (213) 974-1578 or George Britton of my staff at (213) 974-1093.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donato B. Garcia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Donato" being the most prominent.

DONATO B. GARCIA  
CHIEF AUXILIARY SERVICES

DG:gb

j:\lobbyist\lobbyist\letters\2004\4th Qt Late Notice to File





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VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS, EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
(213) 974-1411

December 17, 2004

To: Lobbying Firms

From: Donato B. Garcia *[Signature]*  
Chief Auxiliary Services

Subject: **QUARTERLY LOBBYING REPORTS**

Chapter 2.160 of the Los Angeles County Code, the Los Angeles County lobbyist ordinance, as amended, requires you to file quarterly reports of lobbying activities. The ordinance imposes penalties for failure to file the reports with the Executive Office by the end of the month following the close of the quarter.

This quarter's reports must be signed by the Responsible Officer for your organization and submitted to this office by **Monday, January 31, 2005**. Your quarterly report must cover the period from October 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004. **Even though you may not have had activity this quarter, you must still file a quarterly report.**

Enclosed you will find a Lobbying Firm Quarterly Report (Form LOB 7) that you must file. You must also attach a Lobbyist Quarterly Report (Form LOB 6) for each partner, owner, officer, or employee of the firm who is a registered lobbyist.

NOTE: In the event you wish to terminate your organization's registration, you may do so by checking the box on the front page of the Form LOB 7 under Part I - Notice of Termination. However, if you only want to terminate the registration of an in-house employee, you must file an Amendment to Registration Statement (Form LOB 5) with this office.

The ordinance requires a \$15 fee to accompany the quarterly report(s). If paying by check, please make it payable to Los Angeles County.

The lobbyist registration ordinance authorizes a \$250 fine for late filings. **We strongly urge you to file your quarterly report by the January 31, 2005 deadline.**

Enclosed are the forms you require based on your filing status. The forms must be **originally signed and mailed via the U.S. mail or other delivery services**. The report is not acceptable if it is filed via fax equipment. If you have questions or need additional forms, please call George Britton of my staff at (213) 974-1093.

DG:gb  
Enclosures